

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03468 051604Z

ACTION EB-07

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DEPARTMENT PASS FAA/AIA: BRUSSELS, PARIS, FRANKFURT
FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-SPANISH AIR MINISTRY REPLIES TO CRITICS OF
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

REF: MADRID 3064

1. IN WAKE OF LATEST RASH OF NEAR-MISS REPORTS AND GENERAL CRITICISM OF SPANISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, SUBSECRETARIAT OF CIVI AVIATION (SCA), MINISTRY OF AIR, RELEASED STATEMENT ON SUBJECT WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS APRIL 29. STATEMENT REFERS TO RECENT "REPORTS ABOUT THE SUPPOSED DANGER IN SPANISH AIR SPACE" WHICH ATTRIBUTE BLAME TO EITHER EQUIPMENT DEFICIENCIES OR TO "WORK-TO-RULE" SLOWDOWN OF CONTROLLERS. SINCE THESE ARTICLES TEND TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT "THE ADMINISTRATION IS REMAINING ON MARGIN OF PROBLEM, IGNORING AND FORGETTING THEIR RESPONSIBILITY", THE SUBSECRETARIAT FELT CALLED UPON TO ISSUE A CLARIFICATION.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 03468 051604Z

2. FIRST SECTION OF STATEMENT ON "TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT" READS GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS:

(A) RADAR COVERAGE OF ALL SPANISH AIR SPACE WILL BE ASSURED BY NEW EQUIPMENT OF THE "AIR DEFENSE COMMAND" (ALREADY INSTALLED), WITH GREATER CAPACITY THAN THAT PREVIOUSLY EXISTING AND WHICH WILL BEGIN TO PASS DATA TO "CIVIL AVIATION" ABOUT THE END OF

MAY;

--IN BARCELONA NEW SYSTEM OF PRESENTATION OF RADAR DATA HAS BEEN INSTALLED AND WILL BECOME OPERATION ON JUNE 1. THE NEW SYSTEM IS SIMILAR TO THOSE INSTALLED BY EUROCONTROL IN KARLSRUHE (GERMANY), SHANNON (IRELAND), GENEVA AND ZURICH (SWITZERLAND), AMONG OTHERS.

--EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS ARE TO BE IMPROVED WITH UTILIZATION OF NECESSARY CIRCUITS OF THE MICROWAVE NETWORK OF THE COMBAT GRANDE PROGRAM: THIS WILL BE IN SERVICE BY THIS SUMMER.

--IN MADRID, SOME OF THE EXISTING RADAR CONSOLES ARE BEING MODIFIED TO BE CAPABLE OF PRESENTING ADEQUATELY THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM AIR DEFENSE RADAR.

--SIMULTANEOUSLY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTROL CENTER AT PARACUELLOS ARE BEING IMPROVED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF NEW TELEPHONE AND MICROWAVE LINKAGES.

--IN LAS PALMAS AND MALAGA, LOCAL (TERMINA) RADARS HAVE REMAINED INSTALLED AND IN USE.

(B) AMONG PROVISIONS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE THE MOST IMPORTANT ARE :

--NEW CONTROL CENTER AT SEVILLE (ALREADY UNDZR CONTRACT);

--INSTALLATION OF A NEW TYPE RADAR FOR ENROUTE CONTROL IN LAS PALMAS: ENTRY INTO SERVICE FORESEEN FOR THE COMING WINTER SEASON;

--MODIFICATIONS IN THE SYSTEM OF HANDLING RADAR DATA RECIEVED IN THE PARACUELLOS CENTER IN ORDER TO AUGMENT THE OPERATING CAPACITY OF THIS CENTER.

(C) THE MOST IMPORTANT LONG-TERM PROVISION IS THE STUDY THAT IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY COMBAT GRANDE IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE CIVIL AVIATION MADAC PROGRAM, WHICH CONCERNS THE AIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 03468 051604Z

CONTROL PROBLEMS FORESEEN FROM 1982, FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TEN YEARS.

3. TURNING TO SUBJECT OF PERSONNEL IN SECTION TWO, THE STATEMENT READS:

--THE MANNING OF THE CORPS OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, BASIC FOR AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL SERVICE, IS CORRECT AND ADEQUATE O THE CORRESPONDING RESOURCES;

--THEIR (CONTROLLERS') COLLABORATION AND ADVICE ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS DRAFTING OF REGULATIONS, DETERMINATION OF WORK POSTS, ETC. IS BOTH EFFECTIVE AND ANIMATED BY THE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT REQUIRED;

--THE ASPIRATIONS OF THESE PERSONNEL, TO THE EXTENT THEY REFER TO IMPROVEMENTS OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CAREER PERSPECTIVES, WITH ELEVATION OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY AND, CONSEQUENTLY, OF POSTS OF GREATER RESPONSIBILITY, ARE BEING REALIZED OR UNDER STUDY.

4. STATEMENT ENDS ON NOTE THAT REALIZATION OF APROJECTS

REQUIRES "APART FROM HUMAN EFFORTS, TIME FOR WORK AND CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL HELP FROM GOVERNMENT THAT, COMPLETELY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AND FLOW OF AIR TRAFFIC, HAS GRANTED THE EXTRAORDINARY CREDIT SOLICITED IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE FORESEEN IMPROVEMENTS."

5. IN CONTRAST TO OPTIMISTIC PICTURE PAINTED IN MINISTRY STATEMENT, APRIL 30 PRESS REPORTS ON RESULTS OF NATIONAL MEETING OF CONTROLLERS IN MADRID ON APRIL 28 IS GLOOMY. SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS THAT CONTROLLERS "MAY GO ON STRIKE" IF YEAR-OLD PETITIONS TO MINISTRY FOR IMPROVED TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS NOT MET BY MAY 20. NEWLY-INSTALLED EQUIPMENT AT BARCELONA WAS DESCRIBED AS "INADEQUATE", CONTROLLERS CLAIM THEY WILL CEASE "INTERVENTION" IN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IF PENDING PETITION ON DEFICIENCIES ARE SATISFIED.

6. COMMENT: DURING MEETING OF FAA VISITORS WITH GENERAL MONTEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MADRID 03468 051604Z

AND STAFF ON MAY 2, EMBOFF DISCUSSED MINISTRY STATEMENT, ESPECIALLY "EXTRAORDINARY" CREDIT, WITH THE GENERAL AND OTHER OFFICIALS. (NOTE: OTHER ASPECTS OF VISIT REPORTED BY FAA GROUP OR SEPTTEL). NONE OF SPANIARDS WERE WILLING (OR ABLE) TO SAY WHEAT THE CREDIT AMOUNTED TO, BUT MONTEL SAID THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, OTHER SOURCES (INCLUDING US COMBAT GRANDE COMMANDER) SAID CIVIL AVIATION HAS NOT PAID PAST BILLS AND DOES NOT APPEAR HAVE MONEY FOR NEW PROJECTS. IN VIEW LACK OF MENTION OF PENDING FAA ADVISORY ASSISTANCE IN MINISTRY STATEMENT, EMBOFF ASKED MONTEL IF GOS PLANNED TO DECLINE OFFER. MONTEL DENIED ANY INTENT TO SCRAP AGREEMENT, SAYING ONLY DELAY NOW INVOLVED FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLEARANCE. EMBOFF HAS NOW BEEN ASKED TO CALL ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AIRPORTS, COLONEL MENDOZA, ON MAY 5, TO DISCUSS MOA, RESULTS OF MEETING WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL. STABLER

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